

10/539089

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 15 JUN 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Arrangement in a counter rotating propulsion system (CRP), which propulsion system comprises an aft propeller (22) installed on a rotatable thruster (48) and a forward propeller (6) installed on a shaft (8) or on a thruster, which propellers are arranged on the essentially same axial line, whereby the aft propeller (22) and the forward propeller (6) have opposite directions of rotating and the aft and forward propellers are arranged against each other, the propellers having a hub with a cap, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least two equally distributed flow plates (28) are arranged on the cap (30) of the forward propeller (6) and that the flow plates (28) are radially projecting from the cap (30).

2. (Currently Amended) Arrangement according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the forward hubcap (30) is well-streamlined.

3. (Currently Amended) Arrangement according to claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ wherein the forward hubcap (30) have diameter to length ratio not higher than 2.

4. (Currently Amended) Arrangement according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 3,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein the flow plates (28) are straight and similar to each other.

5. (Currently Amended) Arrangement according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 4,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein the number of the flow plates (28) is independent of

the number of the blades (12) of the forward propeller (6) and the position of the flow plates (28) is independent of the position of the blades of the forward propeller.

6. (Currently Amended) Arrangement according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 5,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the diameter of the tip edges of the plates (28) is in the range of 0,4 – 2 times the maximum hub diameter.

7. (Currently Amended) Arrangement according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 6,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the plates (28) are integrated to the cap (30).

8. (Currently Amended) Arrangement according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 6,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the plates (28) are fixed to the cap (30) by welding or by bolts.

9. (Currently Amended) Arrangement according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 8,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the aft propeller (22) is turnable and the aft propeller (22) is used to propel and to steer the vessel.

10. (Currently Amended) Arrangement according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 9,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the aft propeller (22) being after the forward propeller (6) has a streamlined cap (26).

11. (Currently Amended) Arrangement in a counter rotating propulsion system (CRP), comprising an aft propeller (22) installed on a rotatable thruster (48) and a forward propeller (6) installed on a shaft (8) or on a thruster, whereby the aft propeller and forward propeller are arranged on the essentially same axial line, the aft propeller (22) and the forward propeller (6) have opposite directions of rotating and the aft and forward propellers

are arranged against each other, wherein the propellers have a hub with a cap, whereby at least two equally distributed flow plates ~~(28)~~ are arranged on the cap ~~(30)~~ of the forward propeller ~~(6)~~ and the flow plates ~~(28)~~ are radially projecting from the cap ~~(30)~~.